There have been a series of explosions, bomb blasts in public places and attacks on security forces and vital installations. In the first week of Oct. 1992 explosion took place in a Bus in the outskirts of Jammu city and in the last week of Oct. 1992, in a private Bus plying between Vijaypur and Samba (Jammu). In both these incidents, large number of people were either killed or injured. There have been a number of attacks on security forces and police outposts. The Microwave Station at Banihal was attacked and damaged leading to disruption in communication links with parts of the Valley.

(b) In order to curb militancy in the Jammu Region, possible infiltration routes have been identified and, security has been tightened to check in infiltration. Additional para military forces have been deployed and concerted efforts are being made to flush out the militants and weapons from the area.

Demand for Separate Jharkhand State

1056. SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH :
SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA :
SHRI GAYA SINGH :
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Party is demanding a separate Jharkhand State;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what action Government have taken so far to solve the problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A number of discussions are held with various political parties, groups and organisations to ascertain their views on the Jharkhand issue.

Hardships to Residents of Rameshwaram Due to Anti-LTTE Drive

1057. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that thousands of people living in the coastal area are put to hardships due to the anti-LTTE drive in Rameshwaram; and

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to stop harassment to the local residents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) The facts are being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Communal Riots in Bihar and Kerala

1058. SHRI PARMOD MAHAJAN :
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what were the causes of communal riots in Sitamarhi (Bihar) and in Kerala in the first week of October, 1992;

(b) what was the number of persons killed and injured in these riots;

(c) the number of companies of Rapid Action Force (RAF) sent to quell the riots in Bihar and Kerala; and

(d) whether any judicial enquiry had been made into the incidents, if so, what are the details of its findings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Communal violence erupted at Sitamarhi town and its adjoining areas on 6/7th October, 1992 following a dispute over the route of procession for immersion of Durga Puja idols. Violence broke out at Mattancherry (District Ernakulam) on 7/8th October, 1992 when an RSS worker and his wife were attacked by ISS workers.

(b) 48 persons were killed and 116 received injuries in Sitamarhi while four persons were killed and 31 received injuries in Mattancherry in Kerala.

(c) 4 coys. of Rapid Action Force were sent to Sitamarhi to quell the riots.

(d) The Government of Bihar have set up an enquiry to be conduced by Member, Board of Revenue. The report has yet to be submitted. No enquiry has been ordered by the Government of the Kerala.

Bomb Blast in a Train in Assam

1059. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed and injured in a bomb blast in a train in Assam on the 13th October, 1992;

(b) whether any enquiry has been held into the incident; and

(c) if so, the details of the findings thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) 25 persons were killed and 46 persons were injured.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Settlement of Srilankan Refugees in India

1060. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Srilankan refugees of Indian origin have expressed their desire to settle down permanently in India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the total number of Srilankan refugees staying in India as on the 30th September, 1992 and how many of them are of Indian origin ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) As Sri Lankan refugees are not Indian citizens and are required to be sent back to Sri Lanka in due course, there is no question of seeking their option for settling down permanently in India. However, same refugees have filed writ petitions in the Madras High Court for not being repatriated to Sri Lanka which are being opposed by the Government.

(c) According to available information, 1,82,093 Sri Lankan refugees were staying in India as on the 30th September, 1992 and ethnically all of them are of Indian origin.

Disturbances in Doda Town

1061. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM :

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether disturbances were created by the militants in Doda Town of Doda district in Jammu and Kashmir in the month of August, 1992;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the firing started from every nook and corner of the town including houses of Government employees;

(c) whether the security forces ambushed in the month of August and what was the casualty suffered by them; and

(d) what additional steps are taken by Government to make its run in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Some incidents of militant violance took place in Doda District in the month of August, 1992.

(b) No such instance come to notice in Doda Town in August, 1992.